

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

7.B.2.
Item No. _____

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Observatory Building at Harrington Beach State Park

FOR: APRIL 2006 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Hassett

SUMMARY:

Natural Resource Board action is requested to approve acceptance of a gift to the citizens of Wisconsin through a donation of improved facilities at Harrington Beach State Park for the purpose of astronomical observation and education. Called the Plunkett Observatory, the donation will consist of the observatory building itself. Equipment within the observatory would remain the property of the Northern Cross Science Foundation. The project will be constructed in a couple of phases, with the estimated value of the completed donation to be in the \$12,000 range.

Constructed through the efforts of the Northern Cross Science Foundation, this project will provide opportunities for many park visitors to take part in the beauty and joy of observing the heavens in a quiet and picturesque environment

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the generous donation of the Observatory Building from the Northern Cross Science Foundation.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒ Fiscal Estimate Required
No ☒ Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
No ☒ Background Memo

Yes ☐ Attached
Yes ☐ Attached
Yes ☐ Attached

APPROVED:

/S/

Bureau Director, Bill Morrissey, Bureau of Parks
/S/

Administrator, L. Osterndorf
/S/

Secretary, Scott Hassett

03/23/2006

Date

03/24/2006

Date

03/27/2006

Date

cc: Amy J. Lemberger - AD/5

L. Osterndorf-AD/5

B. Morrissey-PR/6

L. Netzer-PR/6

A. Krueger- Harrington Beach

G. McCutcheon-SER

F. Trcka-SER

G. Pilarski-SER

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2006 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of an Observatory Building from

Northern Cross Science Foundation

This partnership project between Northern Cross Science Foundation and the Department of Natural Resources will introduce people of all ages to observational astronomy in a high quality setting. The Northern Cross Science Foundation has raised money to provide an observatory building. Development will take place this year, in hopes of opening for National Astronomy Day, which is May 6th. At this time, the Northern Cross Science Foundation has raised \$12,000 and is ready to begin construction.

Members of the Northern Cross Science Foundation will provide one 20-inch Panarusky Telescope to be housed in the observatory building. The telescope is named for its primary benefactors, Alvin and Hilda Panarusky of Port Washington. Weighing over 2,000 pounds, the Panarusky Telescope is designed to provide an extremely stable platform for instrumentation. The telescope will accommodate four foci: two Newtonain, one Cassegrain and one Coude.

We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of the present and future generations of visitors to Harrington Beach State Park. We trust this development will serve the people of Wisconsin and our visiting guests now and into the future.

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Natural Resources Board

Gerald M. O'Brien, CHAIRMAN